

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03997 01 OF 03 261559Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 PC-05  
/070 W

-----121051 261622Z /43

O R 261500Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7587  
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MANAGUA 3997

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, NU  
SUBJECT: Q&A SOMOZA'S PRESS CONFERENCE: 24 AUGUST

FOLLOWING AR MOST IMPORTANT Q&A OF SOMOZA'S PRESS CONFERENCE  
OF 24 AUGUST:

1. Q. DO YOU CONSIDER THAT THE UNITED STATES CHANGE  
IN ATTITUDE TOWARDS NICARAGUA REPRESENTS A  
BETRAYAL?

A. I AM A POLITICIAN, AND I RECOGNIZE THAT EVERY  
ADMINISTRATION HAS DIFFERENT ATTITUDES. THERE-  
FORE I DO NOT CONSIDER A CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE  
OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT A BETRYAL. WE  
BOTH HAVE TO ADJUST TO OUR NEW RELATIONS.

2. Q. THE NICARAGUANS SEEN ON GOING TO THE AIRPORT,  
SEEMED TO BE CELEBRATING THE VICTORY OF THE SAN-  
DINISTAS THAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE WITH YOUR ACTION;  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MANAGU 03997 01 OF 03 261559Z

DO YOU THINK THIS REPRESENTS A NEW ATTITUDE?

A. YES. I BELEIVE THAT WE NICARAGUANS MUST NOT  
CLOSE OUR EYES TO WORLD REALITIES. IF COUNTRIES  
LIKE ITALY AND FRANCE ARE DEBATING DIFFERENT  
IDOLOGIES, WE NICARAGUANS ARE NOT EXCLUDED FROM  
EXPERIENCING A SIMILAR SITUATION, IN THE FUTURE,

IN NICARAGUA.

3. Q. IF NICARAGUA LIVES IN A DEMOCRATIC AND JUST REGIME, WHY IS THERE SO MUCH POPULAR DISCONTENT?

A. THERE ARE MANY ANSWERS THAT I CAN GIVE YOU. GENERAL SANDINO, LIBERAL ALL THE WAY, FOUGHT IN A LIBERAL REVOLUTION WHEN PEACE WAS MADE IN NICARAGUA TO GO TO AN ELECTION WATCHED-OVER BY THE AMERICANS, BECOMING INDEPENDENT FROM THE FORCES OF GENERAL MONCADA AND WENT TO COMBAT BELIEVING THAT HE COULD OPPOSE THE NORTHAMERICAN NATIONS. HE WAS A SYMBOL OF RESISTANCE IN LATIN AMERICA AGAINST THE NORTHAMERICAN IMPERIALISM. THIS SYMBOL TODAY HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE COMMUNISTS AND MADE INTO A FLAG OF NATIONALISM. THEN THAT FLAG WAS MADE AS AN EFFECTIVE MOVEMENT BY CARLOS FONSECA AMADOR AND FROM THERE HAS RECEIVED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BY THE COMMUNIST FORCES, SO THAT THE MOVEMENT CAN BE KEPT ALIVE IN NICARAGUA AND WOULD HAVE ITS FOLLOWERS. FROM THERE IT OBTAINS ITS HELP FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA.

4. Q. MR. PRESIDENT, FIDEL CASTRO IN THE SIERRA MAESTRA FOOLED THE WORLD, BUT THE DECLARATION UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MANAGU 03997 01 OF 03 261559Z

THAT HAS BEEN READ BY THESE SANDINISTS ARE CLEAR THAT THEY WILL ESTABLISH THE COMMUNISM AGAINST CAPITALISM AND THE NATIONAL GUARD. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THIS DECLARATION THAT ALL OF NICARAGUA HAS READ AND PART OF THE WORLD WILL IMPROVE THE SITUATION OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARDS NICARAGUA AND STRENGTHEN MORE YOUR GOVERNMENT AND YOUR PARTY?

A. I CONSIDER THAT THE ANSWER THAT THEY SO VEHEMENTLY DEMANDED TO BE PRINTED BY FORCE IN THE NEWSPAPERS AND TO BE READ OVER THE RADIO AND TELEVISION, AFTER MAKING A GOOD ANALYSIS OF IT, I CONSIDER THAT IT IS AGAINST THEIR MOVEMENT; THAT IT HAS A POINT OF ORIENTATION FOR THOSE GOVERNMENTS THAT HAVE RELATIONS WITH US SUCH AS THE NORTHAMERICAN GOVERNMENT; YES, BECAUSE IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE TWIST THAT MR. ALAN RIDING WANTED TO GIVE TO THE SANDINISTS FRONT IN WHICH THEY ACCEPTED ANY IDEOLOGY AND THAT THEY WERE TRYING TO GAIN DEMOCRATIC FOLLOWERS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR MOVEMENT; THEY

HAVE GIVEN THEMSELVES AWAY AND THEY HAVE  
DISVOWED ALLAN RIDING COMPLETELY AS THEIR SPOKES-  
MAN. I THINK THAT THIS STRENGTHENS MY GO-  
VERNMENT BECAUSE WHOEVER HAD DOUBTS ABOUT THE  
INTENTION OF THESE PEOPLE NOW NO LONGER HAS THEM.

5. Q. THIS GUERRILLA OPERATION, MR. PRESIDENT, IS IT  
IN ANY WAY GOING TO HINDER IN ANY FORM THE  
CAMPAIGN OF RESTRUCTURING THAT YOU HAVE LATELY  
TAKEN CONCERNING ORGANIZING THE NATIONAL LIBERAL  
PARTY FOR THE ELECTIONS OF 1981?

A. NOT AT ALL, IT IS NOT GOING TO HINDER IT IN ANY  
WAY; WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE WITH THE RE-  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 MANAGU 03997 01 OF 03 261559Z

STRUCTURING AND REORGANIZATION OF THE PARTY AND  
WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE WITH THE LIBERAL  
PLEBISCITE TO ELECT THE NEW AUTHORITIES OF THE  
GREAT CONVENTION.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03997 02 OF 03 261612Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 PC-05  
/070 W

-----121080 261622Z /43

O R 261500Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7588  
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 MANAGUA 3997

6. Q. MR. PRESIDENT, IS THE CHIEF OF RADIO GOING TO ALLOW US NEWSPAPER PEOPLE THAT WERE WITNESSES OF THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE INSIDE THE NATIONAL PALACE, TO INFORM WIDELY EVERYTHING WE SAW INSIDE?

A. YES.

7. Q. MR. PRESIDENT, NICARAGUA IS A MEMBER OF THE INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM AND AS SUCH HAS SIGNED TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS WITH LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS. IT IS THE CASE, THAT SOME COUNTRIES HAVE TRIED TO ALTER THE NICARAGUAN PEACE IN DIFFERENT OCCASIONS; AND IT IS EVEN KNOWN WHERE THOSE ATTACKS COME FROM. IS NICARAGUA GOING TO PROTEST OR TO DEMAND ITS RIGHTS SO THAT ASSISTANCE TO SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS THAT COME TO ATTACK NICARAGUA WILL NOT CONTINUE?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MANAGU 03997 02 OF 03 261612Z

A. YES, WE ARE GOING TO ASK THE GOVERNMENT TO PUT INTO EFFECT THE INTERNATIONAL TREATIES THAT EXIST UNDER THE INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM.

8. Q. MR. PRESIDENT, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT AFTER THE RADICAL ATTITUDE OF THE GUERRILLEROS EXPRESSED THROUGH THEIR COMMUNIQUE, THE ATTITUDE OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE OPPOSITION WILL CHANGE?

A. I CANNOT SPEAK FOR THE POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE OPPOSITION AND I HAD BETTER ABSTAIN FROM SPEAKING, BECAUSE IF I SAY WHITE THEY SAY BLACK, AND IF I SAY BLACK THEY SAY WHITE. THAT'S THE WAY THINGS ARE WITH THEM.

9. Q. IF THE OPPOSITION HAS PUBLICLY SAID THAT THEY ARE NOT GOING TO ANY ELECTION BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO TRUST IN YOU NOR IN THE LIBERAL PARTY, WITH WHAT PARTY ARE YOU GOING TO GO TO AN ELECTION WITH IN '81? IF THERE IS NO PARTY GOING TO ANY ELECTION, AS THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS CALLS FOR,

AN ELECTORAL BATTLE BETWEEN TWO OR MORE PARTIES, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MAINTAIN DEMOCRACY IF NOBODY IS GOING TO THIS ELECTORAL BATTLE?

A. THIS, SUPPOSEDLY, COULD HAPPEN ANYWHERE IF THE PARTIES DECREE AN ABSTENTION. WHAT THE PARTIES HAVE SAID IS THAT THEY DON'T WANT A DIALOG

BUT THEY HAVE NOT ABSTAINED FROM PUBLIC DE-  
BATE; THEY HAVE NOT ABSTAINED FROM DEBATING  
IN CONGRESS, IN THE COURTS, ON THE RADIO, IN  
THE NEWSPAPERS, ON EVERYTHING THAT IS HAPPEN-  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MANAGU 03997 02 OF 03 261612Z

ING. THEREFORE THEY HAVE NOT DECLARED AB-  
STENTION. SO YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT ABSTENTION  
AND CONFUSING THE FACT THAT THEY DON'T WANT A  
DIALOG. THE ABSTENTION STILL HAS NOT BEEN  
DECREED IN NICARAGUA BY ANY PARTY.

10. Q. MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE NOTICE THAT NICA-  
RAGUAN YOUTH IS THE ONE THAT HAS BEEN OPPOSING  
THE GOVERNMENT MORE FERVENTLY. IF THE NICA-  
RAGUAN YOUTH OF TODAY IS THAT WHICH IN THE FUTURE  
WILL PRACTICALLY GOVERN THIS COUNTRY, HOW DOES  
THE GOVERNMENT OR THE PARTY PLAN TO COMBAT THIS  
YOUTH IN ORDER TO LEAD THEM THROUGH A MORE DEMO-  
CRATIC SYSTEM IN THE FUTURE?

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03997 03 OF 03 261618Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 PC-05  
/070 W

-----121105 261622Z /43

O R 261500Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7589  
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 MANAGUA 3997

A. WELL, MORE DEMOCRATIC? HONESTLY, THEY'LL HAVE TO DO THAT FOR THEMSELVES, BECAUSE WE ARE GIVING THEM EDUCATION, THE SYSTEMS ARE DEMOCRATIC OR NOT, ACCORDING TO THE CULTURAL LEVEL OF THE COUNTRY, THEREFORE I CONFESS THAT NICARAGUA IS NOT ABSOLUTELY DEMOCRATIC BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL FOR THE LAW TO FUNCTION CORRECTLY, AND WHOEVER DOES NOT ADMIT THIS IN NICARAGUA TODAY IS BEING UNREALISTIC. BUT WE HAVE IMPOSED UPON OURSELVES THE TASK THAT THE SONS OF THE MEN WHO LIVE IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE MORE EDUCATION SO THAT THEY SHALL BE MORE DEMOCRATIC...WE HAVE A COUNTRY IN EVOLUTION THAT HAS DEVELOPED IN THE LAST TEN YEARS, AND WE HAVE A YOUTH THAT DEMANDS OPPORTUNITY AND THIS YOUTH HAS TO SEE WHO IS IT THAT IS TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY FROM THEM SO THAT THEY WILL AIM THEIR REBELLION IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION...THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MANAGU 03997 03 OF 03 261618Z

TAKING OPPORTUNITY FROM THE YOUTH, IT IS THE STUDENTS THEMSELVES WHO ARE TAKING AWAY THEIR OWN OPPORTUNITY, BECAUSE LOSING ONE YEAR IS HAVING TO REPEAT IT, AND I, GENTLEMEN, AT THAT TENDER AGE TO LOSE ONE YEAR BECAUSE OF POLITICS, NOT EVEN IF I WAS CRAZY. THIS IS HOW I ANSWER YOUR QUESTION ABOUT YOUTH.

11. Q. IS THIS NOT THE OPPORTUNE MOMENT FOR THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO SEEK A DIALOG WITH THE GOVERNMENT?

A. I HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT PUBLIC DEBATE IS THE WAY TO REACH SOLUTIONS...I BELIEVE THAT IN NICARAGUA PUBLIC DEBATE MUST BE CONDUCTED ON FORM AND LEVEL DESIRED BY THE NICARAGUANS TO CARRY OUT AN ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF OUR INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.  
SOLAUN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MANAGU03997  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780350-0352  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MANAGUA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780820/aaaaaqbg.tel  
**Line Count:** 322  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 1c37f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 6  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1611186  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** Q&A SOMOZA'S PRESS CONFERENCE: 24 AUGUST FOLLOWING AR MOST IMPORTANT Q&A OF SOMOZA'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF 24 AUGUST  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, NU, (SOMOZA DEBAYLE, ANASTASIO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/1c37f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014